The St. Louis Unitarian

May 2016 Vol. 46 No. 11

Worship, RE and Nursery 10:00 a.m.

MAY 2016 WORSHIP INFORMATION

May 1— "Affirmation Sunday"
Lynn Hunt, Credentialed Religious Educator
Special music by Earl Naylor and our Youth

On this joyous Sunday we will hear from our Coming of Age graduates: Anne Meister, Ben O'Boyle, Emma O'Boyle, Kathryn Heddens-Kocher and Gayelyn Dimick. These young people have spent the year exploring UU history, theology and values. At this time they will share with the congregation what guides their life.

May 8— "Touching the Rock"
Brian Mason, Ministerial Intern

Disability is a difficult topic to discuss. Well-meaning people often struggle to find the "right" words to say when discussing it, or maybe they (and you perhaps) try to avoid it all together. However, maybe there's another way to approach thinking about disability entirely, a way that is loving, honest, and unifying. Consider this Sunday's sermon to be a work-in-progress on learning to love the whole world.

May 15— "What is the Church?"
Brian Mason, Ministerial Intern

Soon all of you will embark on a transition. You've been here before, and you know that you will, in the long run, be just fine. But there's more to you than maybe you imagine, holy and surprising things. This Sunday's sermon will be about the theology of the church, and a geography lesson on where is truly lies.

May 22—"Wake Up"
Rev. Thomas Perchlik
Special Music by Yoanna Park Haynes

What does it mean to "wake up" spiritually? Now that the spring is here, are we really awake to the spirit of life, or are we still dreaming?

May 29 – "Memorial Day"
Rev. Thomas Perchlik

On this day when the nation mourns its honored dead, others engage in memoals of those we have loved and lost. If we are peacemakers and peacebuilders, how do we mark memorial day?

April 24

Summit II

Canvass Update

See page 3

Annual Meeting May 15

FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALES

MAY 1, 15

Minister's Column

It is an honor to be a minister of First Unitarian Church of Saint Louis. This church has a vital role to play in the religious landscape of the city and is a significant part of the lives of many individuals. Together we have accomplished very much in the past five years. We have shared the sorrow and hope of the Ferguson Uprising, and recommitted ourselves to learning about, and fighting, racism, and segregation. We have made a public commitment to welcoming and including more fully lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex people. We have reorganized our governance, clarified our processes, changed our fund policies, and faced financial difficulties, all without any serious division. We have deepened our commitment to care for one another, to welcome babies into the world and grieve those who leave through the door of death.

In all this I have come to love you as individuals, to know the great pride and power that comes with being your minister. I also have appreciated and enjoyed the rich life of Saint Louis. If all things were equal, I would gladly serve as your minister for at least another ten years or so.

However, to live nearer to much of my extended family, I am moving to Washington State. On May 8-15, I will meet the people of the Olympia UU Congregation, and if they vote as I expect, I will be called to serve that congregation. Even if they call me, through June I remain, gratefully and enthusiastically, your minister. Thank you for all the appreciation you have shown to me every week for the past five years.

—Yours in Peace,
Thomas

Money Matters

2016 Canvass Update

On Sunday April 10th the First Church sanctuary was filled with members and friends participating in our Celebration Sunday service. Reverend Thomas spoke of the threefold impact of the act of pledging. Pledging results in our giving to ourselves by increasing our spiritual resources—in giving to others by enriching the community we share—and in giving to the world by enabling the church to carry out its values and vision.

Members and friends later enjoyed a shared meal in Fellowship Hall where preliminary canvass results were announced. At the day's end 120 households had pledged a total of $279,759. These figures include many friends and members who are pledging for the first time. Check out the display in fellowship hall. As your pledge is received, a raindrop with your name will appear on the board.

Pledging is a requirement of membership; if you were unable to join us on April 10th and have not yet made your pledge, we ask that you do so now because pledges comprise more than 80% of our church budget. Follow-up requests were sent in mid-April as a reminder that all of our goals for the next church year depend on our financial support.

Thanks to all our members and friends who generously supported our canvass through their very gratefully-received contributions of time, talent and treasure!

Your Canvass Team
Jeanette Myers, Chair

HOLD THE PRESSES! By the time this newsletter was distributed, a total of $308, 224.00 in pledges has been received. We're on an excellent roll.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

DESIGNATED COLLECTIONS: As a way of putting our faith into action, we as a church periodically dedicate one of our collections to a worthy non-profit or church program. May's designated collections are **Places for People** (May 1, 2016) and **Voices for Children** (May 15, 2016).

Places for People's mission is to "provide caring, effective services to help those with the greatest challenges recover from mental illness and associated chronic illnesses." Places for People engages 1,600 people annually in ongoing program services, and provides outreach to 3,800 people through intake calls, going out in the community to provide resource and referral assistance, and providing assessment, triage services and referrals to other service providers. PfP serves people who are living with mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders. Often these people are homeless when they begin services. *This recipient was nominated by church member* ***Danny Milam.***

Voices for Children ensures advocacy for St. Louis City and St. Louis County children in foster care to help them find safe, nurturing homes. Advocates work side by side with lawyers to ensure children's needs are recognized in the courts and schools. Refer to their website http://www.voicesforchildrenstl.org for more information. This recipient was nominated by church members **Stephanie Kniep and Julie Oyen-Keller.**

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR REGIONAL ASSEMBLY!

Join us to explore "The Who in the New Era."
Our three keynote presenters will share their thoughts on how Unitarian Universalism could be exactly what current religious explorers want from faith communities.

There will be many great workshops and outstanding worship services led by ministers from across the region. For complete information and a link to register, please visit our website: https://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly

Budget Summit II

On Sunday, April 24th from 11:30 to 2:00, the Finance Committee is hosting the FUSTL Budget Summit II for all church leaders.

The purpose of this meeting is to work the preliminary budget crafted during the first summit, and align/reconcile it with anticipated Canvass pledges.

Our goal will be to form the official church budget for the 2016-2017 church year to be approved by the congregation during the Annual meeting.

We will facilitate lunch orders similar to last time if needed.

—Steve Smidowicz

LGBT Covenant Group

First U's LGBT Covenant Group's first meeting will be May 15 at about 1:00 following the annual meeting. We still have space for more participants. If you're interested in joining, please contact Alicia Lloyd (alicia.c.lloyd@gmail.com) or Meghan Garvey (mgarvey11@gmail.com) or sign up on the interest sheet in fellowship hall.

'Get Your Bearings' Membership Orientation Session

There will be a UU Orientation Session on May 22 from 11:20-12:30 in Hope Chapel for anyone who is interested. Learn a bit more about our faith with Reverend Thomas, have your questions answered, and meet some other new and longtime people in this church. Please sign up, but if you can't, please come in regardless. The church will provide Light refreshments and childcare for this session.

Worship for Summer

Do you have a sermon you would like to share this summer? Please let the Worship Committee know that you would like to be considered as a service organizer. You provide the sermon, the committee will provide the help you might need or want in putting the service together.

—John Knoll, Chair Worship Committee
(jfk1@aol.com)

Partner Church

There are now ten people from First Church officially registered for the trip to Transylvania and Budapest, Hungary! The trip will take place from September 13 through September 27, 2016. The entire cost of the land portion only of the trip is $1755 (including the $150 registration fee), payable by July 3.

The deadline to register has been extended to n May 1. This is because one other church will be accompanying us: Eliot Chapel. Eliot started their registration process much after we did and needs more time.

All travelers will need a passport, which cannot expire any earlier than six months after the conclusion of the trip, or March 27, 2017. Passports can be obtained at various U.S. post offices or on line; it is advisable to do so as soon as possible.

--Gwenne Hickman

Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, May 15

Newsletter Folding Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Women's Alliance

Tuesday, May 10
11 am: Business Meeting in the Library

12 Noon: Lunch in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own sandwich or salad- Dessert are provided.

1 p.m. Emily Jaycox will be the speaker. Her topic is "Surveyors and Superheroes: Maps and Comics from the Missouri Historical Society"

Tuesday, May 24
12 Noon :Lunch in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own lunch. Coffee and Dessert provided.

1 pm: Intern Minister, Brian Mason, will be the speaker. The subject is "Formation of a Minister

In the Unitarian Universalist denomination, followed by Internship at the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis.

Fair Trade Coffee Sales

May 1 and May 15

Remember that we now accept *credit and debit cards* as payment through PayPal, in addition to cash and checks. All Fair Trade products sold at First Church support small -scale farmers and their local cooperatives in the authentic Fair Trade model. Thank you for being a part of this. It matters.

Fellowship Dinner
Saturday, April 23

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HERE-BY GIVEN that the annual meeting of the members of the Congregation of First Unitarian Church of St. Louis has been called by the Policy Board and will be held at 5007 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri on May 15, 2016 at 11:15 a.m. in the main Sanctuary.

Annual Report Submission

Committee Chairs, Staff and Board Officers, it is that time of year again when we draft our Annual Report. Submissions are due Sunday April 24. Please send all articles in simple WORD format with no tabs, formatting, fancy spacing. The Annual Report will be distributed at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 15. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

—Yvette Clemons

Casual Work Sunday A Success!

Thanks to everyone who stayed after the worship service on Sunday, April 17th to do some spring clean-up inside and outside the church:

Lori Calcaterra
Donald Jeffries
Dottie Kinscherf
Susan Lammert
Doug and Mary Roach
Lisa Ross
Roy Taylor
Alvin Vlietstra

Your work made a real difference!

The Facilities and Landscaping Committee.

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT

LYNN HUNT,
CREDENTIALED RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR

As we near the end of our spring session I want to thank a few people who created some of our special programs this last half of the year. Thanks to **Tom Stockman** who wrote the questions for the Trivia Night, **Sue Herzberg and Danielle Kozemczak** who coordinated the Unfish Fry and **Sara Collier, Victoria Bonvento and Ben Rosensweig** who aided our youth in putting on a terrific Youth Conference. Also, thanks to **Susan Novak Tibbet** for all the kitchen support during the Con and **Doug Roach** for once again cooking the best breakfast any Con has ever tasted. Many, many thanks to all the other people who helped with these community events – your support and efforts are greatly appreciated! *Lynn Hunt*

Calendar

May 1 – Affirmation/Coming of Age Service

May 8 – Chapel & Flower Communion – Remember to bring a flower to share with the congregation. Children will join the congregation at the end of the service for the Flower Communion.

May 15 – Child care during annual meeting at 11:00.

May 22 – Last Sunday of regular classes

May 29 - Special Activities in the Chapel

June 5 – RE Sunday – special activities for children – BBQ after service

June 12 – RE Break – Child Care Only

June 19 – Summer RE begins

Coming Up For Everyone

The Young Adult group invites the entire congregation to an all ages event on Friday, April 29, at 6:30 for a showing of Pixar's Inside Out. This film, about an 11 year old girl whose life is turned upside down by a cross-country move, has proven to be a delight for all, young and old alike. For more information, please contact Victoria Bonvento or sign-up in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

Up Coming Religious Education Programs for Adults and Youth

Great Books Discussion Group

Please note – the group does not meet May – August. Watch for information about the September selection.

Save the Dates!
Toward Justice Book Discussion Group will be reading and discussing 'Just Mercy' June 1, 9 & 16. Watch for details!

Covenant Groups

In Covenant Groups people come together in a circle of trust, in covenant, to be in right relation with one another with respect and care. We cultivate deep listening as each person takes a turn in a kind of sacred space to express what stirs in them about the topic of the session. The careful listening enriches the lively back and forth interchange that follows.

If you would like more information about joining a group you can: sign up in Fellowship Hall, call the Faith Development Office (314-361-0595 ext 25) or send a message through the website (http://www.firstuustlouis.org/engaging/covenant-groups

Fellowship Dinner Honorees

Every year at fellowship dinner, we honor our long-standing members and friends in recognition of their contributions to First UU of St. Louis. This year we have 21 individuals who have reached a milestone year. When you see them, please thank them for being a part of our community!

15 Years
Kay Dusenbery
Larry Dusenbery
Brian Koebbe
Molly Koebbe
Jean O'Brien
Jerry O'Brien
Karen O'Malley
Jeanie Robertson
Jim Stehman

25 Years
Mary Campbell
Ian Cooper
Patty Cooper
Caroline Early
Gilbert Early
Allen Hampton
Carolyn Toft

50 Years
Judy Bamburg

55 Years
Eva Koenig

"We Give"

This was read by Paula Hanssen in church on April 10, 2016.

To be part of this church is to share your religious journey, your volunteer time and your money.
We give not so that we can keep the lights on, but rather, because when we turn the lights on it means we can be together and see one another.
We give not so that we can have the heat or air-conditioning on, but rather because we recognize this is a sanctuary for our bodies, spirits, and minds together.
We give not to pay the minister and staff, but because having a minister and staff ensures that we will be challenged to feel hope, and encouraged to be transformed and transforming.
We give not only because we have enough, but also because we know how great the needs are of people, for food and heat as well as love and dignity.
We give not because it is an obligation, but because through our giving we enable this community to offer powerful meaning and support.
We give, in short, not because our giving makes the church possible, we give because the church helps make the flowers of love, justice, dignity and peace possible.

This morning's offering will be gratefully received. May it be joyfully given."

-Adapted by Rev. T. Perchlik from words by Rev. S. J. Wolfe

GROWING OUR FUTURE…

Long Range Planning at First Unitarian

Please plan to stop by the committee information table in Fellowship hall starting May 1 to learn more details about the Long Range Planning Goals/Objectives that the Policy Board and Church Council have approved.
While the goals that have been recommended are to be accomplished over the next 3 to 5 years, the next major steps will be to prioritize them and create plans for achieving them. We will need your help!
Here are just a few examples of goals that are being recommended:

Worship/Ministry

Vision- We aspire to create inspiring and liberating Worship

Theme Addressed - Increase unity and participation

-Investigate the feasibility of implementing a "THEME BASED MINISTRY" program that would integrate sermons, RE, music, covenant groups, etc. around a specific topic/theme for a designated period of time, i.e., monthly, quarterly.

Stewardship

Vision- We aspire to be good Stewards

Themes Addressed -

-Increase our financial resources

- Enhance and maintain our facility and site
- Improve and strengthen our church governance
- Communicate effectively

-Plan for a major fundraiser or Capital Campaign effort every third year toward specific targeted goals requiring specific funds.

-Complete an independent financial audit

Social Responsibility

Vision- We aspire to enable our members to more effectively engage in our community as a Congregation

Theme Addressed - Engage our community in focused social change

-Develop a coherent vision and leadership for our Social Responsibility Program to communicate how all our Social Responsibility efforts impact the community in accordance with our mission.

Community

Visions- We aspire to nurture fellowship and care for one another

Themes Addressed

- Recruit and retain new members

- Integrate new members

- Introduce new multigenerational activities and programs over the next 3 years

- Engage 75% of members in at least one ministry/program beyond worship or RE activities each year

– Larry Dusenbery

Recycling

Don't forget....the church belongs to a recycling program with **Quill,** our office supply company. The church receives rebates for recycling inkjet cartridges. Recycle bins are found in the copy area of the church office.

Don't forget to LIKE us, FOLLOW US and CHECK-IN on FACEBOOK

Opportunities for fitness: body, mind and soul....

Qigong Offered at First UU

- **Qigong** combines mindful, gentle, physical postures and movements with meditation, breath-work, sounds (mantras) and self-massage techniques to revitalize your Vital Life Force energies and to enhance physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual healing.
- **Qigong** techniques help to dissolve accumulated stress and fatigue, increase energy, and strengthen the immune system.
- Accumulated daily practice of **Qigong** movements and meditation build up a storehouse of Qi energy and also lead to enhanced concentration, improved mental focus, and greater intuitive functioning.

Hour long Qigong classes on Tuesdays at 2pm in Hope Chapel.

These are pay-as-you-can classes.

Toastmasters Club

Join us each first and third Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Clark Room. For information contact Stan Veyhl at (314) 863-3229 or sveyhl@earthlink.net.

DO YOU SHOP ON-LINE?

When making your on-line purchases be sure to log on to GoodSearch.com. Search for your items through Good Search, each search earns money for First Unitarian Church. The potential is SO MUCH higher...cost to you...ZERO!

Simply go to the GoodSearch website, log-on and input "First Unitarian Church of St. Louis" into the field that asks for what group you want to support. It's that easy.

It's a free and easy way to raise money for our church and get some of your shopping finished.

Each month, GoodSearch sends the church a check!

Don't forget to use your eScrip card when shopping at Schnucks. The church receives a percentage each time you shop. Don't have an eScrip Card? Stop by the sign-up table in Fellowship Hall and pick up one this Sunday. Simply register on-line and you are ready to earn money for First Unitarian Church.

ROAD TO MEMBERSHIP

Anyone who wishes to join our congregation as a member may sign the membership book on the last Sunday of each month shortly after the service. The minister or a board officer (President, Church Council Chair, Secretary or Treasurer) will meet you on the Sanctuary chancel.

We welcome you to our religious community

Joys and Concerns from April 2016

Let us keep in our minds all who live with grief or joy this day, those who are healing from illness or surgery and those who have family members who are ill.

— —**Robert Murphy**'s memorial service will be held April 30 at 10:00 am here at First Unitarian Church.
—Our thoughts are with **Chris Kocher** who is recovering from surgery on a broken leg.
—We are joyful and proud that **Eden Vitoff,** senior at Edwardsville high school, has been combating global climate change through Green LYFE (Leading Youth For the Environment) an organization he helped found. More recently, Eden received *The Green Leaf Award* from Heartlands Conservancy for outstanding contributions to the environment of Southwestern Illinois.
—**Paulita Pranschke's** grand father, Bob Fink of Ferguson passed away at home on Friday evening, March 18th, surrounded by family. He was 90 and suffered from kidney failure. His life was memorialized on Saturday, March 26.
—Kelly Dopman's mother, **Vi Dopman**, turned 85 on April 3! She has been attending First Church since September. Attending church every Sunday has become a very important source of joy for her. She loves everything about it.
—We extend our sympathy to **Jan Herzog** and her family at the death of Jan's mother, Judy Imber Esterly.

—Congratulations! **Sue Herzberg** and **Samuel Taylor** were married Friday, April 8 here at First Unitarian Church by **Rev. Thomas Perchlik** with their children Gretchen and Jaxson joyfully celebrating the event.
—We send our concerns with deepest sympathy to **Carolyn Nolan** who has recently been diagnosed with cancer. Please keep Carolyn and her family in your thoughts. Cards are preferred to calls and visits.
—We all celebrate with our Ministerial Intern, **Brian Mason**, who received the highest approval possible from the UU Ministerial Fellowship Committee last week. He is also happy to announce that he will be a CPE Resident at St. Louis University Hospital & Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital for the 2016-2017 year.

Memorials and Special Gifts to the Church

Thank you for the following Special Donations:

- A total of $400.00 was donated to Designated Collections on March 13 for Partner Church. A total of $660.00 was donated to Designated Collections on March 27 for First UU Sandwich Making.

Calendar At a Glance

Please keep in mind that the calendar is updated daily and does not show outside rentals. Refer to the Web Site calendar for up-to-date information.

Sunday, May 1
Designated Collection: Places for People
Fair Trade Coffee/ Affirmation Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
11:15 a.m. - New to First U Covenant Group, C8
11:30 a.m. - Writing Group (CLK)
7:00 p.m. - Toastmasters (CLK)

Tuesday, May 3
2:00 p.m. - Qigong Class (CH)

Wednesday, May 4
7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 5
7:00 p.m. - Liberal Perspectives on the Bible (CLK)

Saturday, May 7
9:30 a.m. - CRC (All Rooms)

Sunday, May 8
Flower Communion
9:00 a.m. - Sandwich Making for the Homeless
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
11:30 a.m. - Knitting Ministry (C7)
11:30 a.m. - Canvass Meeting (C1)
11:30 a.m. - Young adult Planning Meeting (DR)

Tuesday, May 10
11:00 a.m.- Women's Alliance
2:00 p.m. - Qigong Class (CH)
6:30 p.m. - Policy Board Meeting (C1)
7:00 p.m. - Buddhist Book Discussion (CH)

Wednesday, May 11
7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 12
7:00 p.m. - Toward Justice (C1)

Saturday, May 14
9:30 a.m. - CRC (All Rooms)

Sunday, May 15
Congregational Meeting/ Newsletter Deadline
Designated Collection: Voices for Children Fair Trade Coffee
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
11:30 a.m. - Emily-Jeremy Colton Covenant Gr. (C7)
11:30 a.m. - Kelley/Veyhl Covenant Group (C8)
11:30 a.m. - Feinberg Covenant Group (DR)
1:00 p.m. - LGBT Covenant Group (DR)
7:00 p.m. - Toastmasters (CLK)

Tuesday, May 17
2:00 p.m. - Qigong Class (CH)
6:30 p.m. - Finance Committee (C1)
7:00 p.m. - MWM Men's Group (CLK)
7:00 p.m. - Library Committee

Wednesday, May 18
7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, May 21
9:30 a.m. - CRC (All Rooms)
9:30 a.m. - Moppet Swap (CH

Sunday, May 22
9:00 a.m. - Sandwich Making for the Homeless
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
11:15 a.m. - Orientation Session (CH)
11:30 a.m. - Canvass Meeting (C1)
12:30 p.m. - Great Books Discussion (Offsite)

Tuesday, May 24
10:00 a.m. - Newsletter Folding (C1)
12:00 p.m.- Women's Alliance
2:00 p.m. - Qigong Class (CH)
6:30 p.m. - Church Council (C1)
7:00 p.m. - Buddhist Book Discussion (CH)

Wednesday, May 25
6:00 p.m. - Long Range Planning Committee (C1)
7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 27
6:00 p.m. - Young Adult Vespers and Fellowship (CH)

Sunday, May 29
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)

For updates to the church calendar visit
firstuustlouis.org

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Saturday & Sunday Closed